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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
09/893,044	06/27/2001	Robert J. Davies	GB000087	4207	
24737	7590	11/02/2004	EXAMINER		
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS				CHANG, EDITH M	
P.O. BOX 3001				ART UNIT	
BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510				PAPER NUMBER	
				2637	

DATE MAILED: 11/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/893,044	DAVIES, ROBERT J.
	Examiner Edith M Chang	Art Unit 2637

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 June 2001.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 9-13 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 6-8 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 27 June 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>062701,011602</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The listing of references in the specification is not a proper information disclosure statement. 37 CFR 1.98(b) requires a list of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office, and MPEP § 609 A(1) states, "the list may not be incorporated into the specification but must be submitted in a separate paper." Therefore, unless the references have been cited by the examiner on form PTO-892, they have not been considered.

The UK patent application 00 12410.7 on page 2 line 28 is not listed in the IDS, hence it has not been considered.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to because the following informalities:
The block 40 pertaining element 48, blocks 41 and 47 in FIG.1; the blocks 20, 33, 34 and 35 in FIG.2; blocks 13, 1-4 and 9 in FIG.3; need to have descriptive labels, in conformance with 37 CFR 1.84(n) and 1.84(o). Such as,

In FIG.1, "data source" to numeral 47; "master station" to numeral 40;
"assessment means" to numeral 48; and "slave stations" to numeral 41.

In FIG.2, "assessment phase" to numeral 20; "assignment phase" to numeral 33; "delay" to numeral 35; and "data communication phase" to numeral 34.

In FIG.3, “data packet” to numeral 13; “acknowledgement period” to numeral 11; “ACK” to numerals 1, 2, 3 and 4; and “NACK” to numeral 9.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled “Replacement Sheet” in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the term “(Figure 3)” needs to be deleted. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

4. The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant’s use.

Arrangement of the Specification

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC (See 37 CFR 1.52(e)(5) and MPEP 608.05. Computer program listings (37 CFR 1.96(c)), "Sequence Listings" (37 CFR 1.821(c)), and tables having more than 50 pages of text are permitted to be submitted on compact discs.) or
REFERENCE TO A "MICROFICHE APPENDIX" (See MPEP § 608.05(a).
"Microfiche Appendices" were accepted by the Office until March 1, 2001.)
- (e) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
 - (1) Field of the Invention.
 - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (f) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
- (g) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (h) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (i) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).

5. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

For the formality of the application under the present office practice, applicant(s) is required to replace "Claims" with "I or We Claim", "The Invention Claimed Is" (or the equivalent) before the Claims part of the specification of the instant application. See MPEP 608.01(m).

Claim Objections

6. Claims 6-8, 11 and 13 are objected to because of the following informalities:

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Claim 6, lines 3-4: "one of the slave stations of the plurality" is suggested changing to "one of the plurality of the slave stations"; line 4: "the slave station" is suggested changing to "the slave station in the first state"; lines 6-7: "one other of the slave stations of the plurality" is suggested changing to "one other of the plurality of the slave stations"; line 7: "the slave station" is suggested changing to "the slave station in the second state"; and line 13: "slave station" is suggested changing to "slave stations".

Claim 7, line 5: "or lower" is suggested changing to "is lower".

Claim 11, lines 1-2: "the time slot for" is suggested changing to "the time slot predetermined for".

Claim 13, line 1: "the radio station" is suggested changing to "the slave radio station".

Claim 8 is dependent on the objected claim 6.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

7. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

8. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. In claim 12, an integrated circuit comprising the radio station is not described or taught in the specification.

9. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

10. Claims 9-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 9, lines 2, 3, 5, 6-7, & 10: "the slave station" lacks antecedent basis.

Claim 12, line 1: "A slave station" does not clearly indicate that this "A slave station" is the "A slave radio station" cited in claim 9 or another one "a slave station".

Claims 10, 11 and 13 are directly or indirectly dependent on the rejected claim 9.

Allowable Subject Matter

11. Claims 1-5 are allowed.

12. Claims 9-12 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

13. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art of record does not teach or suggest, alone or in a combination, among other things, at least a multicast radio system as a whole, the combination of elements and features as claimed, which includes a plurality of slave stations in the first state or the second state, wherein the first state slave station(s) transmits the acknowledgement(s) back to the master station when a retransmission is not required in the substantially non-overlapping predetermined time slot(s), the second state slave station(s) transmits the negative acknowledgement(s) back to the master

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station when a retransmission is required at the time partially concurrently with the predetermined time slot(s), and the master station retransmits the data if it does not receive acknowledgement from the first slave station(s) or receives at least one negative acknowledgement.

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edith M Chang whose telephone number is 571-272-3041. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jayanti Patel can be reached on 571-272-2988. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Edith Chang
October 26, 2004

Young T. Tse
YOUNG T. TSE
PRIMARY EXAMINER